

JAVA NEWS No.108 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.108 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.108 published in Japanese on June 10, 2022.



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<Revision of Invasive Alien Species Act> Japan to ban importing and selling red-eared sliders!

Red-eared sliders living outside have been exterminated as an invasive turtle species to Japan for which urgent measures must be taken to eliminate outdoor individuals. However, there is no ban on importing and selling them. They would continue to be killed without any measures taken.

Another concern is that the Ministry of the Environment recommends freezing them to death. Freezing is a painful and inappropriate way to kill according to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other guidelines.

JAVA sees these as problematic and continues to press the Ministry of the Environment together with PEACE, an animal rights group. In September 2021, we submitted a written request to the Minister of the Environment. We also lobbied members of the Diet.

Our requests are:

- 1. Revise the Invasive Alien Species Act to ban importing, breeding and selling red-eared sliders.**
However, the current owners of red-eared sliders should be allowed to continue keeping them without any permission, and giving red-eared sliders to new owners from those who are no longer able to keep them shall not be prohibited.
- 2. Abolish the capture and killing of red-eared sliders by other than veterinarians.**

Background of the Request 1

Red-eared sliders in the wild were originally imported and sold as “pets”. They can live for as long as up to 40 years in captivity, and their carapace can grow to over 20 cm in length. It is obvious that keeping them as pets are not easy. Nevertheless, the government has allowed the sale of such an animal. Their negligence caused a serious problem that many red-eared sliders have been released to the wild.

The current Invasive Alien Species Act regulates raising and importing of animals designated as invasive alien species, but millions of red-eared sliders have already been in captivity (according to the data from the Ministry of Environment, about 1.1million households keep them). Therefore, the regulation of raising may encourage abandonment and killing.

We also oppose prohibiting giving red-eared sliders to new owners from those who are no longer able to keep them because some people want to become new owners. In order to prevent abandonment, transferring ownership should be allowed.

The best solution is not to increase their number any more. So, importation and distributing must be ceased. Therefore, we ask that the Ministry of Environment should legally ban importing and selling red-eared sliders.

There are some red-eared slider maniacs who breed them. If this is not prohibited by the law, population of

red-eared sliders must keep on increasing. So, breeding should be banned as well, to stop the increase of red-eared sliders kept as pets.

Background of the Request 2

The manual for the extermination of red-eared sliders drawn by the Ministry of Environment in 2019 recommends administrative officials and citizens who don't have any professional knowledge to trap in rivers or ponds to capture red-eared sliders and put them in a freezer at minus 20°C to kill.

Killing by freezing is one of the most inhumane ways, and in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on the KILLING OF REPTILES FOR THEIR SKINS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS, killing by freezing is listed as one of the methods that are unacceptable for stunning and killing reptiles.

As Japan is a member of the OIE, the Ministry of the Environment must know the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Nevertheless, they completely ignore the Code and widely encourage the public to kill red-eared sliders by freezing.

The Act on Welfare and Management of Animals states that in the case where an animal must be destroyed, a method that minimizes as much as possible the pain and distress to the animal must be used.

As the method described above requires advanced professional knowledge and technique, only veterinarians are qualified to perform it. Ordinary citizens are incapable of doing it properly.

Our ultimate goal is to end an extermination of red-eared sliders itself, but in the current situation where the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries promote extermination of red-eared sliders, the best we can do now is to replace the cruelty method of killing by freezing with a method minimizing the pain and distress as much as possible.

The Ministry of Environment took a stance to introduce regulations

Both a response from the Ministry of Environment to our requests and an outlined policy by an expert group set up by the Ministry indicated that some regulation is needed as we have requested.

On the other hand, as for a method of killing, the Ministry didn't show their intention to adopt drug extermination instead of freezing, acknowledging that drug extermination is the most painless way.

Revised law, including “ban on importing and selling” of red-eared sliders, was passed!



A revision of bill on the Invasive Alien Species Act was submitted to the ordinary session of the Diet started in January 2022, and passed on 11 May. The revised law includes a ban on “importing” and “selling” of red-eared sliders, which we have requested, but the prohibition of “breeding” and the improvement of killing methods are not included. However, at least a ban on “importing” and “selling” was included. So we see this as a big step forward.

Save monkeys in Indonesia! Stop cruel capture and export of monkeys for experiments

In February 2022, JAVA was asked to help with the campaign to stop the capture and export of long-tailed macaques for research in Indonesia by Action for Primates, a project set up to do the campaign on behalf of non-human primates worldwide. Please help us to save them.

Please refer to the website of Action for Primates for the details.

https://actionforprimates.org/public/afp_take_action_2022.php#20220125

The video released by Action for Primates evidently shows how cruel and miserable the capture is.

https://actionforprimates.org/public/references/AfP_logo_public_Indonesia_monkey_film.mp4

On March 28, JAVA sent a letter and an email to Dr. Ir. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia, urging them to immediately ban the capture, export and breeding of long-tailed macaques for research.

We also produced a Japanese subtitled version of the video released by Action for Primates and spread it.

Then we called on our supporters to sign the Action for Primate's Petition, and to send letters and emails to ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia.

Action for Primates' petition page

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/517/718/020/indonesia-end-capture-amp-export-of-wild-monkeys-to-laboratories/>



31 animal protection organizations present joint statement for WC11

The 11th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC11) was held at the Virtual Congress from August 23 to September 2, 2021. On August 18, animal protection groups from many countries working for the abolition of animal testing gathered for the “WC11 animal protection satellite meeting” (Virtual). JAVA also participated in the meeting.



In this meeting, there were presentations from nine groups on their activities and discussion on alternatives replacing carcinogenicity testing. A joint statement to all WC11 attendees was also discussed and the following statement was issued jointly by 31 groups and organizations, asking to recognize the importance of alternative methods and to promote strategies to end the use of animals.

Statement addressed to all attendees of the 11th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, Virtual Congress, August 2021

Recognising that:

- advances in science and technology are increasing the opportunities for the replacement of animals used in education, research and testing;
- ethical considerations require the replacement of animals in education, research and testing;
- where replacement has already been achieved, the benefits to science and education, as well as humans and other animals are clear;
- more could be done to avoid and replace the use of animals;
- despite the efforts of scientists and regulators over the last 30 years, since the first World Congress in 1993, the number of animals used in research and testing has not decreased significantly;
- many organisations and institutions are now focused on the development of strategies to phase-out the use of animals;
- and, that a sustainable and equitable future protecting humans, other animals and the environment depends on a new standard based on non-animal science.

We, the undersigned organisations:

- call on decision-makers to implement policy and regulation changes to accelerate the uptake of nonanimal methods as replacements for animals in education, research and testing;
- call on conference attendees to promote institution-level strategies for the phase-out of the use of animals;
- call on World Congress organisers to focus on accelerating the implementation of non-animal approaches at future World Congresses.

The Japan's largest exhibition of exotic animals "Tokyo Reptiles World 2021 winter"

On December 4 and 5, 2021, "Tokyo Reptiles World 2021 winter" was held in Ikebukuro, Tokyo. The event places approximately 10,000 exotic animals, including reptiles and birds of prey imported from around the world for display and sale. The event is known for its extremely inappropriate display method, and the following horrible treatment of the animals remains the same.



Lizards in plastic cups for sale



Snake bending
its body in small
plastic cup



Turtle unable to move in a small container



Owl on a leash and is displayed on styrofoam



Bantams in a small cage



A small tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*) in a cage was reaching its right hand out through a gap in the cage and squeezing a visitor's finger tightly as it squeaked. It has kept gripping her finger. The visitor was upset but finally managed to remove the monkey's hand and left. The monkey then sucked its own little thumb in its mouth, and after that, it kept on squeaking.

Animals are placed in unnatural environments and subjected to long, grueling exhibitions due to the selfishness of humans. The physical and mental strain on the animals is immeasurable.

In order to improve the situation of those who continue to exhibit animals in such a horrible way, current Care Management Standards for Animals other than dogs and cats under the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals must be revised to stricter standards.

The participation report about the 34th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments November 11 to 13, 2021

Affected by COVID-19, last year it was held virtually only, but this year it was the hybrid meeting held at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST). JAVA participated in the virtual meeting. The number of participants was 475 (announced by the organizer).

The theme of the meeting is "Science based on 3Rs, 3Rs support Science". We would like to report on the presentation which we attended.

Use of MRI reduced the number of animals used for experiments

In the presentation "Contribution of MRI to the 3Rs" which by Dr. Keigo Hikishima from National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), he explained that MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is an attractive imaging tool not only in clinical practice but also in preclinical studies on laboratory animals, because of its non-invasiveness, and animal MRI machine is widely used for the development of diagnostic techniques, and for the evaluation of disease progression and therapeutic effects for pathological models.

From the perspective of 3Rs, for example, when evaluating the therapeutic effect, MRI contributes to a reduction in the number of animals used, as it can obtain data repeatedly from the same animal without having to dissect it.

On the other hand, MRI costs more than 200 million yen (approximately US\$ 1,500,000) and is expensive to install and maintain. Furthermore, there are few experts in the field of measurement and analysis, therefore they are not readily available. Incidentally, the principle is the same for human MRI and animal MRI. The

magnets for animals are stronger because they need to see in fine pixels, and thus are small in size but cost the same as those for humans.

Furthermore, the images obtained using MRI have not yet been recognized as a publicly accepted method, so Dr. Hikishima et al. are developing MRI-based histological imaging. He also reported that his work is underway to create a framework for the widespread use of animal MRI.



Japanese medical schools in Japan are not making full use of donated bodies

Dr. Kazuhiro Endo of Jichi medical university who is developing human resources for surgical medicine, made a presentation under the title of “Structured surgical training for upper-level medical students: dry-lab training, ex-vivo training and live animal training” about systematic surgical surgery training for 5th and 6th grade medical students who desire advanced surgical education after taking compulsory training.

Since this was a meeting on alternative methods, we expected to hear more about practical training that do not use live animals. Actually they use artificial models and harvested organs in the training. However, we were disappointed to hear Dr. Endo insist on the importance of using live pigs, saying that the texture and dynamic biological reaction and the feel of the body can only be understood with the real things.

All medical schools in the U.S. and Canada do not have animal-sacrificing practices. According to Dr. Endo, the use of human donations is less advanced in Japan than in other countries. Specialized doctors with special skills use it, but he said that conducting surgical training by using donated body is very difficult. However, if we do not overcome that hurdle, the sacrifice of animals will never stop. We strongly hope that the use of human body donation will become more widespread that the system will be improved.

Expectations for alternatives to animal experiments in the medical device and food sector

At this society, the majority were research presentations on alternatives to animal experiments in cosmetics. Many of the supporting members are cosmetics companies. However, we think that the number of presentations in other fields is increasing these days. Two companies in the food sector have also become the supporting members, partly due to the recommendations of JAVA.

At the symposium entitled “New application fields and Further Advances in Alternative Research - Medical Devices, Foods and Cosmetics-”, the following presentations were made on alternatives in the medical device and food fields in addition to the cosmetics field.

■ Medical devices

Dr. Yuji Haishima (National Institute of Health Sciences) gave the following explanation. In the biological safety evaluation of medical devices, it is a principle to reduce animal studies as much as possible and perform appropriate evaluation. They consider the validity of omitting the test to make maximum use of literature data and information on equivalence with approved products. Moreover, even if they have no choice but to carry out animal studies, it is recommended to actively select the in vitro alternatives.

For example, HCPT (Human Cell-based Pyrogen Test) using human cells, which is an alternative to pyrogen



test using rabbits, is described in the Japanese guidance as reference information, although Japan has not yet made a complete transition to this alternative method.

Also, in vitro irritation test method using reconstructed human cultured skin model are included in the same guidance, and it is recommended as the first choice for skin irritation testing of medical devices. It can also be used as an alternative for intracutaneous reactivity test.

In addition, Dr. Haishima outlined the latest information on alternatives to animal experiments in the medical device field, which the development of alternatives for sensitization tests using guinea pigs and mice and ocular irritation test using rabbits that is required for contact lenses is underway currently, but there are many problems in putting them into practical use.

■ Food

Dr. Yuuki Takahashi of International Life Sciences Institute Japan (ILSI Japan) presented ILSI Japan's efforts to promote alternatives to animal experiments in the food sector.

According to him:

Not to mention the consideration of animal welfare, especially in the field of food safety assessment, to improve the accuracy of safety prediction in humans is an issue, and so expectations are rising for alternatives to traditional animal testing. Safety assessment is required for foods with insufficient eating experience, however, the development of alternatives to animal testing has hardly been done in the field.

ILSI Japan is developing technologies as alternatives to animal testing that can be used in the food sector and has launched the Alternative Animal Testing (AAT) project with the goal of advancing the refining and efficiency of food safety assessments and functionality evaluations. Several food companies are participating in this project and are implementing the following three themes in collaboration with academia, (1) “Gathering information”, (2) “Promoting research”, (3) “Disseminating information”. For example, in theme (2), with the goal of establishing a new strategy for food safety assessment, ILSI Japan is proceeding with the construction of “food components toxicity database containing existing toxicity information used for predicting the safety of food components” and “in silico prediction model for intestinal absorption and blood concentration that can predict internal exposure”.

MPS attracting attention as an alternative method

MPS (Microphysiological System), such as organ chips, is a focus alternative method that is being researched. At this year's conference, a symposium entitled “Current status of MPS: development, industrialization and standardization” was held, and five speakers made presentations.

Three of them introduced the following domestic and international trends and current status of MPS, as well as projects in Japan.

- MPS is expected to be used in a wide range of fields from drug discovery to clinical development of

pharmaceutical R&D, including contributions to alternative methods for animal experiments, thereby improving R&D productivity. It has also attracted a lot of attention in recent years as alternatives to animal testing for chemical products, cosmetics, and foods.

- MPS has reached the stage of practical use in USA and EU. In Japan, in contrast, the existence of MPS has finally become known, due to AMED-MPS project started in 2017 by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). And in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, academia, device manufactures and Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), an ecosystem for drug discovery evaluation systems using MPS has been built. The interested party is now desperate to catch up with USA and EU.
- In addition, as an activity to promote understanding and creation of evaluation methods using MPS among domestic end-users, a team for MPS application in safety assessment was newly established within Consortium for Safety Assessment using Human iPS Cell in 2021, and about 20 pharmaceutical and CRO companies have participated and started activities in Japan.
- One of the goals of both the leading commercially available MPS and the MPS being developed by the AMED-MPS project is to provide data that will contribute to examination documents for safety evaluation of drugs, prediction of pharmacokinetics, and evaluation of human health effects of chemical substances.

And as a concrete MPS research, Dr. Hiroshi Kimura of Tokai University introduced microphysiological systems for in vitro models of the kidney and the gut-liver that he is involved in commercialization.

In addition, Dr. Kazuya Maeda of Kitasato University School of Pharmacy made a presentation about Establishment of an experimental model for predicting drug intestinal absorption with intestinal stem cells derived from surgical specimens in humans.

Fur News

Fur Free Alliance (FFA) is an international coalition of more than 50 animal protection organizations working collaboratively to eliminate fur. JAVA is also a member of this coalition. Here are some news related to FFA.

Good News!!

Two luxury fashion brands are now fur free!!

FFA has the world's leading program "Fur Free Retailer Program" which recognizes retailers who have committed to a no fur policy. At present, more than 1,500 brands have abandoned fur fashion and are participating in this program. Recently, the following two Italian brands have sworn to be fur free and have joined the ranks of the Italian brand ARMANI, GUCCI, PRADA.

■ Moncler

January 25, 2022, Italian luxury brand Moncler pledged to stop using real fur from all its collections after Fall/Winter 2023.

Moncler will stop sourcing fur in 2022 and the last collection to feature fur will be Fall/Winter 2023. After working together with FFA member LAV, Moncler announced that it will join the global Fur Free Retailer Program.



Source

https://furfreetailer.com/blog/2022/01/25/moncler-drops-animal-fur-and-joins-fur-free-retailer/?fbclid=IwAR0kjEG0nH4TZAf1gPmX692fZXEV4JxCZOzemAPqVIHzKJrK_BnrNM3Wyec

■ Dolce&Gabbana

January 31, 2022, Italian luxury brand Dolce&Gabbana announced that it will use no animal fur in any of its collections starting in 2022. Dolce&Gabbana will be working with furriers to transition to eco-friendly faux fur in response to changing consumer tastes.

Source

<https://www.furfreealliance.com/dolce-gabbana-goes-fur-free/>

Republic of Ireland bans fur farming!!

March 29, 2022, the legislation banning fur farming in the Republic of Ireland passed the final stages of the parliamentary process. Having completed its passage through the Dáil (House of Representatives) in early 2022, the Bill completed its final stage in the Seanad (Senate) on the evening of Tuesday March 29, 2022. The Bill now goes to the President to be signed into law. The three remaining fur farms are expected to close this year. This is the result of many years of work by FFA member Respect for Animals and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals (ISPCA). (Information as of the end of March 2022)

Source

<https://www.furfreealliance.com/republic-of-ireland-bans-fur-farming/>

FFA-produced latest map of fur and fur farming

■ More countries are banning fur farming by law

FFA has produced a map that summarized the legal and regulatory status of fur and fur farming. The first country to ban fur farming was the United Kingdom. Since then, over the past two decades, more and more European countries have banned fur farming. Israel became the world's first country to prohibit the sale of fur. (Information as of April 2022)

JAVA participated in "Earth Day Tokyo 2022"

On April 16th and 17th, JAVA exhibited a booth at "Earth Day Tokyo 2022" in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo. Thorough measures against COVID-19 infection were taken same as last year.

At the JAVA booth, we exhibited panels, handed out flyers, sold JAVA original educational goods, and set up a message board where people could write their thoughts on animals and call for support for the petition to save monkeys in Indonesia, as described on page 4.

Although there were not as many people as before the Corona disaster, many people learned about the reality of animal testing and fur, and we were able to conduct meaningful activities for animals.



News from other countries

In these pages, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.108 carries the following six articles. The six articles were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.108 at the URL below:

[**A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT: ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENT FINALLY RECOGNISED BY THE ITALIAN CONSTITUTION! \(LAV\)**](#)

[**EPA TO PHASE OUT TESTS USING MAMMALS \(AAVS\)**](#)

[**Victory! Dogs Saved From Deadly Surgery Training \(PCRM\)**](#)

[**Victory at the University of British Columbia \(PCRM\)**](#)

[**Billboards Call for Nonanimal Vaccine Safety Testing Method \(PCRM\)**](#)

[**110 Million Rats and Mice Used in U.S. Labs \(AAVS\)**](#)

JAVA NEWS No.108 English ver. published on August 23, 2022

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